

Council, Tuesday 3 November 2009

Motion 3.1: Councillor Geof Cooke

Great Northern Line

This Council recognises the importance of effective and efficient public transport to the success of London's suburbs. It notes that all London Underground stations and most London Overground and National Rail stations in London receive a Metro-style 'Turn Up and Go' service, e.g. at least 4 trains per hour on weekdays between 09:30 and 16:00, but this is not the case on the Great Northern line serving New Southgate, Oakleigh Park and New Barnet stations in the London Borough of Barnet. This part of the borough is densely populated without easy access to alternatives in most areas and it deserves as good a service for its residents as other parts of London. The present frequency is never more than 3 trains per hour outside of peak times and at weekends it is only 2 trains per hour at best. Network Rail's East Coast Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy (February 2008) considers that frequency improvements to local services in London by 2016 are desirable but there is no plan of action.

Council notes the greatly improved service on other lines in London as a result of London Overground taking over.

Therefore the Council Leader is requested to seek support from the London Borough of Enfield (in respect of New Southgate) and to write to the Mayor of London and Transport for London to

1. Urge negotiation with interested parties, including Network Rail, the Department for Transport and First Capital Connect, to improve service levels on the Great Northern line through Barnet to Metro frequency including consideration of the possibility of
 - Some services running from New Barnet supplementing through trains from Hertfordshire.
 - London Overground (Transport for London) operating trains to/from New Barnet sharing track with National Rail services (as is happening elsewhere in London).
 - Great Northern line services that stop in Barnet terminating at one or more of Moorgate and Kings Cross (as now) and from 2015, when the Thameslink Programme completes, of using any spare space (e.g. at weekends) on the 24-trains-per-hour capacity of the central London section of the Thameslink line in order to run through to south London.
2. Request confirmation that Oyster Pay-as-You-Go will be implemented from January 2010 at New Southgate, Oakleigh Park, New Barnet, Cricklewood, Hendon and Mill Hill Broadway stations.
3. Urge complete harmonisation of National Rail ticketing in London with London Underground ticketing including the starting time from which Freedom Passes may be used and free travel for children.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.